

Message Text

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63

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 INRE-00 SSO-00 /036 W

----- 017381

O R 041945Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0157

INFO NSF POLAR WASHDC IMMEDIATE

COMNAVSUPPFORANTARCTICA IMMEDIATE

PORT HUENEME CA

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 1487

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, XV, US, AR

SUBJ: GENERAL SAN MARTIN ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) BETZEL-WILCOX TELECON MARCH 4; (B) NAVSUPPFORANTARCTICA DEL DELTA CHRISTCHURCH NZ 031955Z MAR 75 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY SCIENTIFIC COUNSELOR AND NAVAL ATTACHE CALLED ON NATIONAL ANTARCTIC DIRECTOR ADM. FRAGA AFTERNOON MARCH 4 TO DISCUSS GENERAL SITUATION OF ICEBREAKERS SAN MARTIN, GLACIER, AND BURTON ISLAND AND TO FEEL HIM OUT ABOUT POSSIBLE GOA VIEWS ON THE SITUATION.

2. FRAGA WAS AWARE OF SITUATION AS OF MARCH 3 AND IN OUR PRESENCE CALLED NAVY OPERATIONS COMMAND TO RECEIVE UPDATE. AS FRAGA EXPLAINED SITUATION AS OF MARCH 3 (THERE HAD AS YET BEEN NO CONTACT WITH SAN MARTIN ON MARCH 4), SHIP WAS BESET AND WAITING FOR WEATHER TO CHANGE IN HOPE OF WIND OPENING A PASSAGE IN ICE FOR HER TO DEPART. HE WAS AWARE THAT GLACIER HAD PROKEN PROPERLER AND WAS ALSO BESET.

3. ADDITIONAL PROBLEM WORRYING FRAGA IS THAT ARGENTINA'S ALMIRANTE BROWN STATION HAS ONLY THREE MORE MONTHS OF SUPPLIES AND WAS DEPENDING ON SAN MARTIN FOR ITS RESUPPLY.

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4. IT WAS CLEAR FROM OUR DISCUSSION WITH FRAGA THAT

RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVENTS CONNECTED WITH SAN MARTIN WITHIN
GOA LIES IN THE NAVY OPERATIONS DEPT. IT IS BEING HANDLED
AS OPERATIONAL MATTER.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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